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Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116
Application No. 10/501,813
Attorney Docket No. 042393

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 3 and 5-7 were rejected as being obvious over JP 09-302496.

In response to Applicant's previous response, the Examiner alleged as follows:

In response, JP '496 teaches the same "performing step as presently claimed. If the composition is physically the same, it must have the same properties. Products of identical chemical composition cannot have mutually exclusive properties (MPEP §2112.01)

Thus, either JP '496's "performing step forms a high Re-content alloy film as presently claimed or Applicants' "performing step forms the chromium-containing coating as disclosed by JP '496.

Office Action page 4, lines 4-10.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite, among other things, "a lithium ion in a concentration of 0.0001 to 5.0 mol/L."

JP 09-302496 describes that pH is adjusted using phosphoric acid and sodium hydroxide (see [0027] and [0030]), but does not teach or suggest that the electroplating solution contains a lithium ion in a concentration of 0.0001 to 5.0 mol/L."

For at least these reasons, claim 3 patentably distinguishes over JP 09-302496. Claims 4-7, depending from claim 3, also patentably distinguish over JP 09-302496 for at least the same reasons.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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